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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

16 NOVEMBER 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Patterson – 23 Arrested in One Night Human Trafficking Operation in Stanislaus County

(U) Authorities say an operation against human trafficking in Stanislaus County last week resulted in the arrest of nearly two dozen people. Patterson Police Services joined several other law enforcement agencies from around the area for a mission against human trafficking and associated crimes. By the end of the operation, police say 23 people had been arrested. Most of the people – which included men and women – arrested during the mission are facing prostitution-related charges, according to the list of suspects booked.

SOURCE: 16 November 2020, Sacramento Bee

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Nevada – Man Sentenced for Plotting Attack On Las Vegas Synagogue

(U) Las Vegas – A man who admitted to planning violent attacks against the Anti-Defamation League, a Las Vegas synagogue and a Fremont Street bar was ordered to serve two years in federal prison on Friday. Conor Climo pleaded guilty to a weapons charge earlier this year, admitting that he "expressed biases and hatred against various racial and religious groups." His sentencing, originally set for the spring, was delayed throughout the pandemic and ultimately conducted through a teleconference. SOURCE: 16 November 2020, Las Vegas Review

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Austria – Vienna Terror Attack: Police Investigating 21 Potential Accomplices

(U) Vienna – Austrian investigators have identified 21 suspected accomplices of an Islamist gunman who went on a deadly rampage in Vienna last week, officials said Friday. On 2 November, the assailant, named as dual Austrian-Macedonian national Kujtim Fejzulai, shot dead four people and injured more than 20 others in the city center before he was killed by police. Lead police investigator Michael Lohnegger, told a press conference that the 20-year-old was the sole perpetrator of the shooting spree. A spokeswoman for the Vienna prosecutor's office, Nina Bussek, told reporters that 21 people between the ages of 16 and 28 were under investigation, with 10 of them in custody. SOURCE: 13 November 2020, DW

(U) Burkina Faso – ISIS Claims Burkina Attack That Left 14 Soldiers Dead

(U) Tin-Akoff – ISIS said it had staged a mid-week ambush of soldiers in Burkina Faso ahead of elections this month. The Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, in a message carried on its Amaq news outlet and on social media, said it killed 20 soldiers traveling in Tin-Akoff in Oudalan province. A rival group, the Jihadist Group to Support Islam and Muslims (GSIM), had claimed responsibility Friday in social media posts. A government spokesman Thursday put the death toll at 14 while blaming "armed terrorist groups." The attack took place in the country's north, near the border with Mali and Niger. SOURCE: 15 November 2020, AFP

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(U) Ethiopia – Gunmen Kill 34 In Attack on Bus

(U) Benishangul-Gumuz – Gunmen in western Ethiopia have killed at least 34 people in an attack on a bus, the national human rights body said yesterday. The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) said the number of people killed was likely to rise after what it called a "gruesome" attack on the passenger bus in the Benishangul-Gumuz region on Saturday. Details of the attack remained unclear in a country that has seen escalating violence in recent weeks. The EHRC also said that there are reports of similar attacks in three other areas, including on people who have fled to seek shelter.

(U) SOURCE: 16 November 2020, DW

(U) Iran - Al Qai'da's No. 2, Accused in US Embassy Attack Killed

(U) Tehran – Al Qai'da's second-highest leader, accused of being one of the masterminds of the deadly 1998 attacks on American embassies in Africa, was killed in Iran three months ago, intelligence officials have confirmed. Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah, who went by the nom de guerre Abu Muhammad al-Masri, was gunned down on the streets of Tehran by two assassins on a motorcycle on 7 August, the anniversary of the embassy attacks. He was killed along with his daughter, Miriam, the widow of Osama bin Laden's son Hamza bin Laden. The attack was carried out by Israeli operatives at the behest of the United States, according to four of the officials.

SOURCE: 16 November 2020, NYT

- (U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.
- (U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.